

1 [Support of the Checkout Bag Charge and Recyclable Paper or Compostable Pre-Checkout
2 Bag Ordinance File Number:190417]

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4 **Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to adopt File Number**
5 **190417, an Ordinance amending the Environment Code to raise the amount stores**
6 **must charge for checkout bags from 10 cents to 25 cents per bag and to require that**
7 **pre-checkout bags provided to customers before they reach the point of sale be**
8 **recyclable paper or compostable.**

9 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has a duty to protect the natural
10 environment, the economy, and the health of its citizens; and,

11 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has a goal of achieving zero waste,
12 which includes the elimination of single-use plastic bags; and,

13 WHEREAS, At the Global Climate Action Summit in September 2018, Mayor Breed
14 updated San Francisco's zero waste goal by committing to reduce 2015 solid waste
15 generation levels by 15% and materials disposed 50% by 2030; and,

16 WHEREAS, Policies that promote reusable or compostable bags encourage the reuse
17 of materials, thereby conserving resources and protecting the environment; and,

18 WHEREAS, Americans use 100 billion plastic bags a year, which require 12 million
19 barrels of oil to manufacture; and,

20 WHEREAS, The average American family takes home almost 1,500 plastic shopping
21 bags and only 1% of plastic bags are recycled; and,

22 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Environment sponsored a
23 groundbreaking ordinance in 2007 making it one of the first cities in the nation to prohibit
24 stores from providing single-use plastic checkout bags; and,

1 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Environment sponsored a subsequent
2 ordinance in 2012 that added a mandatory 10-cent charge for other permitted checkout bag
3 types to promote reusables and reduce waste generation; and,

4 WHEREAS, In 2014, the State of California became the first state in the nation to pass
5 a bill to prohibit single-use plastic bags at point of sale and require a 10-cent minimum charge
6 for carryout bags provided at point of sale which became effective in November 2016 after
7 voters upheld the bill through a statewide referendum; and,

8 WHEREAS, Policies on single-use bags have been effective in encouraging
9 consumers to use less single-use bags and more reusable bags; and,

10 WHEREAS, Based on a survey conducted by the Department of the Environment in
11 2018, 43% of surveyed retailers in San Francisco offer plastic reusable checkout bags, 51%
12 offer recyclable paper bags and 6% offer both types; and,

13 WHEREAS, Santa Cruz reports that its 25-cent checkout bag charge has resulted in
14 significant change among customers, with 90% of customers now bringing their own bags. To
15 date, 11 cities and counties in California have mandated a checkout bag charge higher than
16 10 cents per bag; and,

17 WHEREAS, In 2016, with 40% of the population of the State of California covered by
18 local single-use plastic bag bans, coastal clean-up data for that year showed plastic grocery
19 bag litter had dropped by 66%; and,

20 WHEREAS, Supervisor Vallie Brown introduced an ordinance increasing the amount
21 stores must charge for checkout bags from 10-cents to 25-cents per bag and requiring that
22 pre-checkout bags provided to customers before they reach the point of sale be recyclable
23 paper or compostable; and,

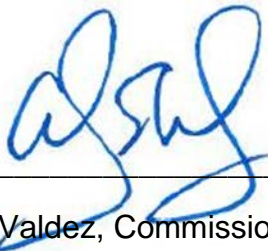
24 WHEREAS, The ordinance defines a "Compostable Pre-checkout Bag" to include
25 those certified by and labeled with the logo of the Biodegradable Product Institute (BPI) or

1 other third party recognized by the Department as meeting ASTM D6400 Standard
2 Specifications for composability and conforms to at least the minimum State standards for
3 manufacturers of compostable plastic bags; and,

4 RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment recognizes that an ordinance
5 discouraging single-use plastic bags at checkout and promoting recyclable paper or
6 compostable pre-checkout bags will help the City and County of San Francisco make
7 progress toward its goal of zero waste; and, be it,

8 FUTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment urges the Board of
9 Supervisors and the Mayor to adopt File Number 190417, an ordinance ensuring single-use
10 bag reduction.

11 I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Commission on the
12 Environment's Meeting on May 28, 2019.

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Anthony Valdez, Commission Secretary

17 Vote: 6-0 Approved
18 Ayes: Commissioners Ahn, Chu, Stephenson, Sullivan, Wald and Wan
19 Noes: None
20 Absent: Commissioner Bermejo

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